

**CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. In a computer system, a method of generating a dispatch interface implementation, the method comprising:
- 5 receiving definition information that defines dispatch interface features of a dispatch interface, the dispatch interface including plural dispatch methods and one or more other methods;
- receiving programming language code for the one or more other methods, each of the one or more other methods having a name;
- 10 based upon the definition information and the programming language code, generating a dispatch interface implementation for operating the one or more other methods, the dispatch interface implementation including:
- executable code for the one or more other methods;
- executable code for a first dispatch method, the first dispatch
- 15 method mapping the names to corresponding dispatch identifiers for binding at run time; and
- executable code for a second dispatch method, the second dispatch method for calling the one or more other methods at run time responsive to client requests, each client request including a dispatch identifier.
- 20
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the definition information is embedded in a file for the programming language code.

005020-20447500

3. The method of claim 1 wherein a file includes the programming language code and a statement for importing the definition information.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the generating comprises:  
5 in the second dispatch method implementation code, creating code for handling the arguments of one of the one or more other methods with a generic data structure.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the dispatch interface  
10 implementation is part of a dual interface implementation, the method further comprising:  
generating executable code for directly invoking the one or more other methods through a vtable mechanism at run time.

15 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the dispatch interface implementation further includes:  
executable code for a third dispatch method, the third dispatch method for determining the availability of type information for the dispatch interface; and  
executable code for a fourth dispatch method, the fourth dispatch method  
20 for retrieving available type information for the dispatch interface.

7. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a computer executable compiler system that generates a late binding implementation from

005020-3047560

Sub  
a2

*July 22*

definition information and programming language code, the compiler system comprising:

5 a front end module that receives definition information and programming language code, the definition information defining late binding interface features of a late binding interface, the programming language code for implementing one or more late bound methods;

a converter module that identifies relations between the definition information and the one or more late bound methods; and

10 a back end module that generates a late binding interface implementation based upon the relations, the late binding interface implementation for operating the one or more late bound methods.

8. The compiler system of claim 7 wherein the converter module identifies one or more relations, each relation between one of the one or more late bound methods and a corresponding identifier, and wherein based upon the one or more relations the back end module generates for each of the one or more late bound methods code mapping the name of the late bound method to the corresponding identifier for the late bound method.

15

20 9. The compiler system of claim 7 wherein the converter module identifies one or more relations, each relation between one of the one or more late bound methods and a corresponding identifier, and wherein based upon the one or more relations the back end module generates for each of the one or more late

005020" 204T560

bound methods code for calling the late bound method upon receipt of the corresponding identifier for the late bound method.

10. The compiler system of claim 7 wherein the converter module  
5 identifies one or more relations, each relation between type information and an argument of one of the one or more late bound methods, and wherein based upon the one or more relations the back end module generates code for handling the arguments of the late bound method with a generic data structure.

10 11. The compiler system of claim 7 wherein the converter module identifies a relation between a property indicator and one of the one or more late bound methods, and wherein based upon the relation the back end module generates code for retrieving or setting a corresponding property through the late bound method.

15 12. The compiler system of claim 7 wherein the late binding interface implementation is part of a combined early binding and late binding interface implementation, and wherein the back end module further generates an early binding interface implementation for the one or more late bound methods.

20 13. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for performing a method of automatically generating a late binding interface implementation, the method comprising:

(receiving programming language code for one or more late bound methods  
of a late binding interface;

receiving definition information that defines late binding interface features  
of the late binding interface;

5 based upon the programming language code and the definition information,  
generating a late binding interface implementation for operating the one or more  
late bound methods, the late binding interface implementation including one or  
more late binding methods, a first late binding method for calling the one or more  
late bound methods responsive to client requests.

10

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the first late binding method lacks a call to a separate late binding interface implementation.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein a second late binding method maps names of the one or more late bound methods to corresponding identifiers for run time binding, and wherein the second late binding method lacks a call to a separate late binding interface implementation.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the late binding  
20 interface implementation includes a second late binding method for determining  
the availability of type information, and wherein the late binding interface  
implementation further includes a third late binding method for retrieving available  
type information.

*Sub*  
17. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the definition information is embedded in a file for the programming language code.

5 18. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the generating comprises:

identifying type information for an argument of a first late bound method;  
for the implementation for the first late binding method, generating code  
for handling the argument with a generic data structure.

10

19. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the late binding interface implementation adjoins an early binding interface implementation, the method further comprising:

generating the early binding interface implementation for directly invoking  
15 the one or more late bound methods.

20. In a computer system, a method of automatically generating an interface implementation, the interface implementation having early binding and late binding mechanisms, the method comprising:

20 receiving programming language code for one or more methods of an interface;

receiving definition information that defines late binding interface features of the interface;

003020-2074300

15

20

receiving programming language code for calling a late bound method of the late binding interface;

*Sub 22*

based upon type information for one or more input arguments of the late bound method, generating code for packing the one or more arguments into a generic argument data structure; and

generating code for calling the late bound method through an invocation method of the late binding interface, wherein the calling includes passing the generic argument data structure to the invocation method.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising:

based upon type information for a return value of the late bound method, generating code for unpacking the return value from a generic return value data structure.

25. The method of claim 23 further comprising:

generating code for calling a mapping method of the late binding interface, the mapping method associating a late bound method name with an identifier.

009020207300